

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital camera, comprising:

a camera body;

an optical system having including a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body;

a flash device, said flash device secured to said camera body on the first side of said camera body and at a constant distance from said lens; and

a cover device coupled to said camera body and configured to cover said lens and said flash device, said cover device including and includes a cover member configured to cover and uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding within a range of said camera body in a vertical direction at the first side of said camera body.

Claim 2 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the first side of said camera body.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said cover device is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

Claim 5 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a display device positioned on a second side of said camera body, wherein said second side of

said camera body is opposite to said first side of said camera body.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A digital camera comprising:

a camera body;

an optical system having a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body, said optical system including a ~~and~~ means for covering said lens by sliding within a range of said camera body in a vertical direction at said first side of said camera body; and
a flash device, said flash device secured to the camera body on the first side of said camera body and at a constant distance from said lens, wherein said means for covering said lens covers said flash device.

Claim 7 (Original): The digital camera according to Claim 6, wherein said means for covering said lens includes a cover member that is slidably actuated between an open position and a closed position.

Claim 8 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the first side of said camera body.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said means for covering said lens is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said means for covering said lens uncovers said lens ~~is moved from a closed position to an open position.~~

Claim 11 (Original): The digital camera according to claim 6, further comprising a display device positioned on a second side of said camera body, wherein said second side of said camera body is opposite to said first side of said camera body.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method for protecting a digital camera, the digital camera including a camera body, an and an optical system having a lens positioned on a front of the said camera body, and a flash device positioned on the front of said camera body and positioned at a constant distance from said lens, said method comprising the step steps of:

covering the said lens with a first cover device including a cover member coupled to said camera body and configured to cover and uncover the said lens by sliding within a range of said camera body in a vertical direction at the front of the camera body, and covering said flash device with said cover device when covering the lens.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein said digital camera further includes said lens is arranged at an upper edge of the first side front of said camera body.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein said cover device is configured to actuate further comprising the step of actuating a power switch to said digital camera when said cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein said digital camera further ~~comprises~~ includes a display device positioned on a ~~second~~ back side of said camera body, wherein said ~~second~~ back side of said camera body is opposite to said ~~first~~ front side of said camera body.

Claim 17 (New): The digital camera according to Claim 1, wherein said lens and said flash device are horizontally arranged side by side.

Claim 18 (New): A digital camera, comprising:
a camera body;
an optical system including a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body;
a flash device, said flash device secured to the camera body and positioned on the first side of the camera body at a constant distance from said lens;
a cover device coupled to the camera body and configured to cover said lens and said flash device, said cover device including a cover member configured to cover and uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding within a range of said camera body in a first direction along the first side of said camera body.

Claim 19 (New): The digital camera according to Claim 18, wherein said lens and said flash device are arranged side by side substantially in a direction perpendicular to the first direction.

Claim 20 (New): The digital camera according to Claim 17, wherein said lens and said flash device are arranged on the upper edge of the camera body.